है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश के सुजानपुर, नादौन, बदसर, गुमारविन और उना में भारतीय स्टेट बैंक की शाखाएं खोलने संबंधी प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए थे। भारतीय स्टेट बैंक (एस०बी०आई०)। ने नादौन और उना में शाखाएं खोली हैं। अन्य केन्द्र भारतीय स्टेट बैंक को आंवटित नहीं किए गए थे क्योंकि ये उसके सेवा क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत नहीं आते हैं। हिमाचल प्रदेश के सेलहटी में पंजाब नैशनल बैंक की शाखा खोलने संबंधी प्रस्ताव को उस बैंक ने अपनी सहमति प्रदान नहीं की क्योंकि इसे अर्थक्षम नहीं पाया गया था।

(ख) और (ग) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने आगे सूचित किया है कि दिनांक 1.4.1995 से 31.1.1997 को अवधि के दौरान हिमाचल प्रदेश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में शाखाएं खोलने के लिए राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों को दस प्राधिकार जारी किए गए थे और ये शाखाएं अभी खोली जानी हैं। ब्यौरा नीचे दिया गया है:—

बैंक का नाम	जिला	केन्द्र
पंजाब नैशनल बैंक	कुल्लू	दोभी
पंजाब नैशनल बैंक	उना	बागंगा
पंजाब नैशनल बैंक	उना	गाग्रेट
पंजाब नैशनल बैंक	उना	अंब
केनरा बैंक	सोलन	बड़ी
बैंक आफ इंडिया	कुल्लू	मंडी
पंजाब नैशनल बैंक	उना	दौलतपुर
पंजाब नैशनल बैंक	उना	सनौली
पंजाब एंड सिधं बैंक	कुल्लू	मनाली
केनारा बैंक	हमीरपुर	सुजानपुर-तिहरा

Abolition of Restriction on Imports

2497. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether International Monetary Fund has demanded that India should abolish restrictions on imports;

(b) If so, the reaction of Government on this demand; and

(c) the details of the demands made and impact it will have on India's foreign trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Sir, There is no question of IMF making any demands on India.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Income Tax Raids on IAS/PCS Officers in Uttar Pradesh

2498. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minsiter of FINANCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Income Tax department has recently raided the premises of several senior IAS, PCS officers and technocrats in Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): The names of the officers of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in whose cases action u/s 132(1) of the Income Tax act, 1961 was taken are as under:—

(1) Dr. B.P. Neelratna, IAS
(2) Dr. Brijendra, IAS
(3) Sri L.K. Mehrotra, Chief Engineer
(4) Sri P.C. Mehrotra, Chief Engineer
(5) shri P.N. Misra, PCS
(6) Sri Padam Singh, PCS
(7) Sri R.P. Tyagi, IAS
(8) Sri S.C. Gupta, Chief Engineer.

Proposal for Expansion by Bombay Stock Exchange

2499. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Bombay Stock Exchange for its expansion both on national and international market and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUAMR): (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had

some time back received a proposal from the Stock Exchange, Mumbai seeking permission for expansion of its On Line Trading terminals to locations outside Mumbai on a national level. The objectives of the proposal were, inter alia, to increase the volume of trading in securities, to provide a more direct and transparent access to investors outside Mumbai to the Online trading facility of the Exchange and to bring down the cost of transactions in securities.

(b) The Board of SEBI in its meeting held on 29th October, 1996 took a decision to permit the Stock Exchange, Mumabi and other Exchanges to expand their online screen based trading terminals to areas outside the place where the concerned Exchange is located, subject to certain conditions. This decision was conveyed to all the Stock Exchanges by SEBI vide a letter dated 30th October, 1996.

Banking Facilities in Rural Sector

2500. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to enhance banking facilities in the rural sector;

(b) whether Government propose to revive the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) which are falling sick;

(c) if so, the sick RRB's identified for revival;

(d) the net loss sustained by thse RRBs each; and

(e) the fund earmarked for the revival of sick RRBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) With a view to providing institutional mechanisms for promoting rural savings as well as for the provision of credit for viable economic activities in the local areas, Governemnt have decided to allow the establishment of new local banks in the private sector. This is expected to bridge the gaps in credit availability and enhance the institutional frame work in the rural and semi urban areas.

(b) and (c) As a part of restructuring of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Government have provided budgetary support for recapitalisation of RRBs on a "Stand alone" basis. While 49 RRBs were taken up for equity support in 1994-95, 53 RRBs were recapitalised during the year 1995-96. During the current year, 17 more RRBs have been provided equity support so far, besides giving additional equity support to some of RRBs already covered.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) An amount of Rs. 150 corres was released by the Government in the year 1994-95 as its share of equity support to select RRBs. During 1995-96, an amount of Rs. 223.57 crores was provided by the Government for the purpose. During the current year, as on 28.02.1997, an amount of Rs. 125 crores has been released to RRBs. The balance provision of Rs. 75 crores is likely to be released during the current year itself. Further, a budgetary provision of Rs. 270 crores has been made for recapitalisation of RRBs during the year 1997-98.

Benefits of Service to the Personnel in the Armed Forces Deputed in Foreign Countries Testing HIV Positive

2501. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the personnel in the armed/para-military/ security forces who have been deputed in foreign countries in the past few years have tested HIV positive;